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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/786,295

02/26/2004

John W. Clapper JR.

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3436

7590

08/04/2005

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EXAMINER

TORRES, ALICIA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3671

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/786,295

Applicant(s)

CLAPPER, JOHN W.

Examiner

Alicia M. Torres

Art Unit

3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

*Claim Objection*

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: it appears “operative” in line 12 should be changed to –inoperative—. Appropriate correction is required.

**DETAILED ACTION**

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Risch 5,111,602 in view of Raunisto 5,802,753.
4. Regarding claims 1-3 and 5-7, Risch discloses a grappling assembly for a machine having a boom, comprising:
  - A dipper stick (30) pivotally connected to a boom (not shown)
  - An implement (44) connected to the dipper stick (30)
  - Means (38) for moving the implement (44) relative to the dipper stick (30)
  - An arm (50a,b) connected to the underside of the dipper stick (30) and movable between a grappling position and an inoperative position
  - Means (16a,b, 38) for pivoting the arm (50a,b) relative to the dipper stick (30)

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- Means (59, 66a,b) for detachably latching the arm (50a,b) in the operative position including the arm (50a,b) having a transversely extending recess (66a,b), as per claim 1; and
- The means (16a,b, 38) for moving the arm (50a,b) is receivable within the arm (50a,b) when the arm (50a,b) is inoperative, as per claim 2; and
- The means (16a,b, 38) for pivoting the arm comprising a fluid actuated cylinder (38), as per claim 3;
- The arm (50a,b) having a jagged edge (25), as per claim 7.

However, Risch fails to disclose wherein the latching means includes the dipper stick having a yieldably biased, transversely displaceable protuberance receivable in the recess, as per claim 1; and

- a bracket having a pair of outwardly, yieldingly biased protuberances
- recesses registerable with the protuberances in a snap-fit manner, as per claim 5; and
- the biasing force exerted on the protuberance sufficient to yieldably bias the protuberance in the recess yet insufficient to retain the protuberance therein upon pivoting from the inoperative to the grappling position, as per claim 6.

Raunisto discloses a similar device with a latching means including a yieldably biased, transversely displaceable protuberance (10) receivable in a transversely-extending recess (8), as per claim 1; and

- a bracket (2) having a pair of outwardly, yieldingly biased protuberances (10)
  - recesses (8) registerable with the protuberances (10) in a snap-fit manner, as per claim 5;
- and

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- the biasing force exerted on the protuberance (10) sufficient to yieldably bias the protuberance (10) in the recess (8) yet insufficient to retain the protuberance (10) therein upon pivoting from the inoperative to the grappling position, as per claim 6.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the latching means of Raunisto on the device of Risch in order to provide an integral connecting piece operable from the cabin (see column 1, lines 26-34).

5. Regarding claims 8-10 and 12-15, Risch discloses an assembly comprising:

- An arm (50a,b) connected to the underside of the dipper (30)
- Means (16a,b, 38) for pivoting the arm (50a,b) for grappling objects
- Means (59, 66a,b) for detachably latching the arm (50a,b) in the inoperative position including the arm (50ab) having a transversely extending recess (66a,b), as per claim 8; and
- The means (16a,b, 38) for moving the arm (50a,b) is receivable within two elongated plate members of the arm (50a,b) when the arm (50a,b) is inoperative, as per claims 9 and 14;
- The means (16a,b, 38) for pivoting the arm comprising a fluid actuated cylinder (38), as per claim 10;
- the biasing force exerted on the protuberance sufficient to yieldably bias the protuberance in the recess yet insufficient to retain the protuberance therein upon pivoting from the inoperative to the grappling position, as per claim 13; and
- The arm (50a,b) having a jagged edge (25), as per claim 15.

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However, Risch fails to disclose a second member having a yieldably biased, transversely displaceable protuberance receivable in the recess, as per claim 8; and

- a bracket having a pair of outwardly, yieldingly biased protuberances
- recesses registerable with the protuberances in a snap-fit manner, as per claim 12.

Raunisto discloses a similar device with a latching means including a yieldably biased, transversely displaceable protuberance (10) receivable in a transversely-extending recess (8), as per claim 8; and

- a bracket (2) having a pair of outwardly, yieldingly biased protuberances (10)
- recesses (8) registerable with the protuberances (10) in a snap-fit manner, as per claim 12; and
- the biasing force exerted on the protuberance (10) sufficient to yieldably bias the protuberance (10) in the recess (8) yet insufficient to retain the protuberance (10) therein upon pivoting from the inoperative to the grappling position, as per claim 13.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the latching means of Raunisto on the device of Risch in order to provide an integral connecting piece operable from the cabin (see column 1, lines 26-34).

6. Claims 1, 4, 8, 11 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Risch in view of Lee 6,332,747.

7. Regarding claims 1, 4 and 16, Risch discloses a grappling assembly for a machine having a boom, comprising:

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- A dipper stick (30) pivotally connected to a boom (not shown)
- An implement (44) connected to the dipper stick (30)
- Means (38) for moving the implement (44) relative to the dipper stick (30)
- An arm (50a,b) connected to the underside of the dipper stick (30) and movable between a grappling position and an inoperative position
- Means (16a,b, 38) for pivoting the arm (50a,b) relative to the dipper stick (30)

Means (59, 66a,b) for detachably latching the arm (50a,b) in the operative position including the arm (50a,b) having a transversely extending recess (66a,b), as per claim 1.

However, Risch fails to disclose wherein the latching means includes the dipper stick having a yieldably biased, transversely displaceable protuberance receivable in the recess, as per claim 1; and

the protuberance comprising yieldingly biased curved buttons receivable in the recess with a spring providing the bias, as per claim 4; and

the member with the recess including an element disposed in a plane perpendicular to the pivotal axis of the arm and including the protuberance biased in an extended position, engageable with the protuberance in camming relation to cause the protuberance to displace and then be inserted into the recess when the arm is angularly displaced to the inoperative position, as per claim 16.

Lee discloses a similar device wherein the latching means includes a yieldably biased, transversely displaceable protuberance (62a,b) receivable in recesses (42a,b), as per claim 1;

the protuberance (62a,b) comprising yieldingly biased curved buttons receivable in the recess (42a,b) with a spring (81) providing the bias, as per claim 4; and

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wherein the protuberance (62a,b) is biased in an extended position, an element (41a) engageable with the protuberance (62a,b) in camming relation to cause the protuberance (62a,b) to displace and then be inserted into the recess (42a,b), as per claim 16.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the latching means of Lee on the device of Risch in order to facilitate the mounting or detaching of an accessory (see column 2, lines 4-5).

8. Regarding claims 8 and 11, Risch discloses an assembly comprising:

- An arm (50a,b) connected to the underside of the dipper (30)
- Means (16a,b, 38) for pivoting the arm (50a,b) for grappling objects
- Means (59, 66a,b) for detachably latching the arm (50a,b) in the inoperative position including the arm (50ab) having a transversely extending recess (66a,b), as per claim 8.

However, Risch fails to disclose a second member having a yieldably biased, transversely displaceable protuberance receivable in the recess, as per claim 8; and

a curved button protuberance receivable in the recess, the button biased outwardly by a spring, as per claim 11.

Lee discloses a similar device wherein the latching means (100) includes a yieldably biased, transversely displaceable protuberance (500) receivable in recesses (42a,b), as per claim 8;

the protuberance (62a,b) comprising yieldingly biased curved buttons receivable in the recess (42a,b) with a spring (81 providing the bias, as per claim 4.



It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the latching means of Lee on the device of Risch in order to facilitate the mounting or detaching of an accessory (see column 2, lines 4-5).

### *Response to Arguments*

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Conclusion*

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia M. Torres whose telephone number is 571-272-6997. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will, can be reached at 571-272-6998.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-1113. The fax number for this Group is 571-273-8300.



**Thomas B. Will**  
**Supervisory Patent Examiner**  
**Group Art Unit 3671**

AMT  
July 27, 2005